

Remarks/Arguments

In the February 12, 2007 Office Action, claim 8, 9, 12 and 13 were rejected under section 103 as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Cooper (US Patent 3,991,832) and Truax et al (US Patent 4,206,580).

In this response, claim 8 is amended to specify the first and second solenoid-operated directional control valves are connected in parallel to an inlet line from the first hydraulic motor, and the first and second pilot-operated directional control valves are connected in series to the inlet line from the first hydraulic motor.

Claim 8 is patentable over the cited references.

Applicant's admitted prior art fails to disclose a hydraulic circuit in which first and second solenoid-operated directional control valves are connected in parallel, and first and second pilot-operated directional control valves are connected in series, without directing the flow through any other restrictive valves. Instead, the admitted prior art results in a drop in pressure, and a related drop in efficiency, due to flow restrictions such as check valves 84 and 86.

Cooper fails to disclose any solenoid-operated directional control valves that are connected in parallel, and fails to disclose pilot-operated directional control valves that are connected in series. Cooper's open center direction control valves 64, 66 and 68 are manually operated, not pilot-operated.

Truax et al does not relate to a hydraulic circuit for three motors. Instead, Truax relates to a mower device with one fluid power motor 16. Truax fails to show solenoid-operated directional control valves connected in parallel or pilot-operated directional control valves connected in series.

Claim 9 is patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 8 on which it depends.

Claim 12 is amended to specify a pair of solenoid-operated control valves connected to an input from the first hydraulic motor, and a pair of pilot operated control valves connected to the input from the first hydraulic motor.

Claim 12 is patentable over the cited references.

Applicant's admitted prior art fails to disclose a pair of solenoid-operated control valves connected to an input from the first hydraulic motor, and a pair of pilot operated control valves connected to the input from the first hydraulic motor, in which hydraulic fluid flows from the first hydraulic motor to the second and/or third hydraulic motors without directing the flow through any other restrictive valves. Instead, the

admitted prior art results in a drop in pressure, and a related drop in efficiency, due to flow restrictions such as check valves 84 and 86.

Cooper also fails to disclose a pair of solenoid-operated control valves connected to an input from the first hydraulic motor, and Cooper's manual direction control valves 64, 66, 68 are not pilot operated.

Truax et al does not relate to a hydraulic circuit for three motors. Instead, Truax relates to a mower device with one fluid power motor 16. Truax fails to show the claimed combination of solenoid-operated directional control valves and pilot-operated directional control valves.

Claim 13 is patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 12 on which it depends.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,

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